

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 196034

63

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-03

SCA-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 SCS-03 INSE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05

/072 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS: RDLORTON
APPROVED BY NEA/INS: BWBROWN
H - RAFLATEN (INFO)
S/R/ORM - MR. PAPPAS (INFO)
L/HR - MR. RUNYON (INFO)
L/NEA - MR. HUFFMAN (INFO)
SCA/VO - MR. DOBRENCHUK (INFO)

----- 108952

R 182308Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. DEPARTMENT SENT FOLLOWING LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN
MICHAEL HARRINGTON AUGUST 15:
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PAGE 02 STATE 196034

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. HARRINGTON: THE SECRETARY HAS
ASKED ME TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR AUGUST 1 LETTER, ALSO
SIGNED BY TWELVE OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, INQUIRING
ABOUT THE VIEWS OF THE ADMINISTRATION WITH RESPECT TO

INDIA'S EMERGENCY, WHICH WAS PROCLAIMED ON JUNE 26. I AM SENDING COPIES OF THIS REPLY TO THE OTHER MEMBERS WHO SIGNED THE LETTER.

3. QUOTE: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE BEING HELD BY THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES AS A RESULT OF THE EMERGENCY. ON JULY 4, INDIAN POLICE RAIDED PREMISES OF THE ANANDA MARG SOCIETY, ONE OF TWENTY SIX RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS BANNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. IN THE COURSE OF THESE ACTIONS AGAINST THE ANANDA MARG, THE AUTHORITIES DETAINED SOME AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR FIVE-TO-TEN HOURS, AFTER WHICH THEY WERE RELEASED.

4. QUOTE: OUR EMBASSY AND CONSULATES GENERAL IN INDIA HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY AMERICAN ANANDA MARG MEMBERS IN INDIA AND HAVE HELPED IN EFFORTS TO LOCATE THEM. MOST AMERICAN MARG MEMBERS WHO WERE IN INDIA HAVE SINCE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES OR GONE TO OTHER COUNTRIES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO AFFORD PROTECTION TO AND ASSIST ANY AMERICANS ARRESTED IN INDIA AS A RESULT OF THE EMERGENCY OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON.

5. QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC LISTS OF THOSE PERSONS ARRESTED DURING THE EMERGENCY. ANY INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES IS FRAGMENTARY AND DIFFICULT TO VERIFY. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS, IN FACT, EXPLICITLY PROHIBITED THE PUBLICATION OF NAMES OF THOSE ARRESTED FOR POLITICAL REASONS, AND LONG-STANDING GUARANTEES AGAINST ARBITRARY DETENTION HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE. THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED SO FAR DURING THE EMERGENCY IS IN THE THOUSANDS. SUCH INFORMATION AS IS AVAILABLE SUGGESTS THAT MANY INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS, FOR ALLEGED ECONOMIC CRIMES, OR FOR OTHER, UNSPECIFIED REASONS. WE
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PAGE 03 STATE 196034

UNDERSTAND THAT THE ANANDA MARG SOCIETY HAS ALREADY MET WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN LONDON AND WAS SCHEDULED TO HAVE MET AUGUST 8 WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RED CROSS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS IN GENEVA TO ASK THOSE ORGANIZATIONS TO SEEK LISTS OF PERSONS ARRESTED DURING THE EMERGENCY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

6. QUOTE: WHILE WE HAVE BEEN CIRCUMSPECT IN COMMENTING OFFICIALLY ON THE PRESENT SITUATION IN INDIA, WE HAVE OPENLY EXPRESSED OUR REGRET OVER THE ABRIDGEMENT OF THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION AND HAVE LODGED PROTESTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXPULSION OF U.S. JOURNALISTS BY THE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS STATED THAT THE AMERICAN PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRATIC FORMS AND PROCEDURES IS CLEAR BUT THAT WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD HELP AT THIS MOMENT TO MAKE DAILY COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN INDIA.

7. QUOTE: IN REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM INDIA MIGHT SEEK ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES, WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE ANANDA MARG SOCIETY WHICH APPROACHED THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF REFUGEE AND MIGRATION AFFAIRS ABOUT THIS. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE GRANT ASYLUM TO REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES WHO FACE PERSECUTION IF THEY RETURN TO THEIR HOME

COUNTRY. WE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM WE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE QUICK ADMISSION INTO THE UNITED STATES OF INDIVIDUAL REFUGEES USING THE PAROLE AUTHORITY IN THE IMMIGRATION ACT. I AM ENCLOSING COPIES OF A RECENT EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MR. THOMAS E. BAREFOOT III, DIRECTOR OF THE ANANDA MARG'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE SHRII SHRII ANANDAMURTI, AND LOUIS A. WIESNER, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF REFUGEE AND MIGRATION AFFAIRS, FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

8. QUOTE: I HOPE YOU WILL CALL ON ME IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERN ABOUT THESE MATTERS. UNQUOTE.

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PAGE 04 STATE 196034

9. LETTER WAS IN REPLY TO FOLLOWING LETTER TO SECRETARY DATED AUGUST 1 AND SIGNED BY HARRINGTON AS WELL AS CONGRESSMEN GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.; HENRY HELSTOSKI; HENRY A. WAXMAN; LEO C. ZEFERETTI; JONATHAN B. BINGHAM; GEORGE MILLER; DON EDWARDS; PETER W. RODINO, JR.; DONALD M. FRASER; GILBERT GUDE; ABNER J. MIKVA; AND ROBERT W. EDGAR:

10. QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY: WE ARE WRITING TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE DISTURBING PLIGHT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDIA AND TO ASK FOR A CLARIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY TOWARD THE GANDHI GOVERNMENT'S "STATE OF EMERGENCY" DECLARATION.

11. QUOTE: ALTHOUGH SEVERAL AMERICANS WHO WERE AMONG THE MASSES ARRESTED IN THAT COUNTRY HAVE SINCE BEEN RELEASED, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THERE MAY BE OTHERS BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH AGENCIES SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS, TO SEEK ACCURATE PRISONER LISTS, INFORMATION ON PRISON

CONDITIONS, AND RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS STILL HELD.

12. QUOTE: WE ALSO WANT TO KNOW WHAT POSITION THE ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE BLATANT DENIAL OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MRS. GANDHI. ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THAT THERE ARE LIMITATIONS ON WHAT MIGHT BE ACHIEVED BY TAKING A PUBLIC STAND ON THIS MATTER, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT OFFICIAL SILENCE MAY BE REGARDED AS GIVING ASSENT TO THESE UNCONSCIONABLE PRACTICES.

13. QUOTE: IN ADDITION, WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT CERTAIN POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM INDIA WILL BE SEEKING ASYLUM IN OUR COUNTRY, AND WE ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT EFFORTS THE OFFICE OF REFUGEE AND MIGRATION AFFAIRS IS MAKING TO ACCOMMODATE THESE VICTIMS OF OPPRESSION.

14. QUOTE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE. UNQUOTE.

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PAGE 05 STATE 196034

15. SUPPORTING MATERIALS POUCHED NEW DELHI. SISCO

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Message Attributes

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KARACHI

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